

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 IO-10

OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 /079 W
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O R 231317Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6799

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 3186

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: XPZ JKGIOWMWESUPFORPE

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO LETTER FROM 76 SENATORS
TO
PRESIDENT FORD

1. SUMMARY: ALL ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS REGARD SENATORS' LETTER TO FORD AS A MOST SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEVOTE TO IT HEADLINE STORIES, EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARY. PRESS REGARDS LETTERS AS A GREAT BOOST TO ISRAELI MORALE AND VICTORY FOR ISRAELI DIPLOMACY. IT EMPHASIZES THAT TIMING OF PUBLICATION OF LETTER (BEFORE PRESIDENT FORD'S MEETINGS WITH SADAT AND RABIN) IS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO ISRAEL. WHILE CONCEDED THAT LETTER CANNOT HAVE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON US ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY, IT CERTAINLY UNCLASSIFIED

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STRENGTHENS ISRAELI POSITION. COMMENTING ON LETTER, MFAMHZ EXCSKSWD SATISFACTION AND GRATIFICATION... TO THE SENATORS..." WASHINGTON-BASED ISRAELI CORRESPONDENTS REPORT RESERVATIONS AMONG ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND SHOCK AMONG

ARAB REPS IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

2. MAARIV (MAY 22) POLITICAL REPORTER HARIF SAID THAT SENATORS' LETTER IS SEEN IN GOI CIRCLES AS EVIDENCE THAT LINE ADOPTED BY THE GOVT IN ITS TALKS WITH KISSINGER... PROVED ITSELF AS BALANCED AND CORRECT..." "CIRCLES IN JERUSALEM REGARD THIS POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENT AS ONE OF PARTICULARLY GREAT SIGNIFICANCE ON THE BACKGROUND OF THE 'REASSESSMENT'..." MAARIV EDITORIAL REGARDS LETTER AS "GREAT DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT WHICH PROVES THAT THE EFFORTS OF FORD AND KISSINGER TO BLAME ISRAEL FOR THE FAILURE OF THE AMERICAN MEDIATION EFFORTS HAVE FAILED... ALTHOUGH THIS LETTER DOES NOT FORCE THE PRESIDENT TO ACT IN ANY WAY, IT WILL PROVIDE HIM WITH A MEASUREMENT OF THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE..."

3. YEDIOT (MAY 22) POLITICAL REPORTER, ZIMUKI REGARDS LETTER AS THE "STRONGEST PRESSURE ON THE WHITE HOUSE TO CHANGE ITS POSITION AND GUARANTEE THE REQUIRED ARM SUPPLIES AND APPROPRIATE AID TO ISRAEL... IT IS HELD IN JERUSALEM THAT THE LETTER WILL HELP PM RABIN IN HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT..." ZIMUKI ADDS THAT THE LETTER IS REGARDED, TO SOME EXTENT, "AS ACHIEVEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR DINITZ, WHO, CONTRARY TO THE OPINION OF MANY OTHERS, CLAIMED THAT REPORTS ON 'EROSION' (IN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL) WERE GROUNDFLESS..."

4. DAVAR MAY 23 (ESHED) REPORTS THAT "GREAT SATISFACTION PREVAILS IN JERUSALEM FROM A LIST OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS CULMINATING IN THE SENATORS' LETTER... IT IS HELD IN JERUSALEM THAT ISRAEL'S BARGAINING POSITION HAS IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY. NEVERTHELESS, ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF MISSING THE OPPORTUNITY TO UNCLASSIFIED

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REACH A SETTLEMENT BY EXAGGERATING ITS POSITION... WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED BY RABIN IN HIS TALKS WITH FORD..." IN ITS EDITORIAL DAVAR NOTES THAT THE LETTER PROVES THE JUSTIFICATION OF GOI'S POSITION WHICH UNDERSTOOD THAT IN THE FACE OF THE SOLID BASIS OF ISRAEL-US TIES WE CANNOT GIVE IN TO THE DICTATES OF THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH MAY ENDANGER THE VITAL INTERESTS OF ISRAEL, DESPITE THE ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND POLITICAL DEPENDENCE ON US. MOREOVER, WHILE THE LETTER REJECTS ADMINISTRATION ATTEMPTS TO LINK ADDITIONAL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO ISRAEL WITH... TO TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS, IT PRACTICALLY IDENTIFIES ITSELF WITH OUR POSITION THAT ANY WITHDRAWAL ON OUR PART MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY

SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARD PEACE BY OUR ARAB NEIGHBORS..."
EDITORIAL CONCEDES THAT " NOT ALL SENATORS WHO SIGNED TT LETTER
IDENTIFY WITH ALL ISRAELI POSITIONS AND SENATORS
MCGOVERN AND STEVENSON WHO SUPPORT A
PALESTINIAN STATE AND AN ISRAELI RETURN TO 1967
LINE MUST BE MENTIONED..." BUT, EDITORIAL CONCLUDES,
THE LETTER HAS ALREADY CREATED A BETTER ATMOSPHERE
FOR RABIN'S VISIT... AND IT WILL ENABLE HIM TO
CONDUCT THE TALKS FROM A BETTER POSITION..."

5. DAVAR CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON (BARNEA),
REPORTS THAT "ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAVE
UNOFFICIALLY EXPRESSED CATEGORICAL RESERVATION
AT THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER AND FACT THAT IT
WAS SENT. THEY CLAIM THAT THE COMPLAINTS REGARDING
DELAY IN SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO ISRAEL CITED
IN THE LETTER ARE NOT CORRECT, BECAUSE SUPPLIES
OF ARMS CONTINUE TO FLOW TO ISRAEL. IT IS ALSO
CLAIMED... THAT LETTER MAY PROVOKE REACTIONS, BOTH
IN ISRAEL AND IN EGYPT, WHICH MAY HARM THE RESUMPTION
OF NEGOTIATIONS..."

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O R 231317Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6800
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 3186

6. JERUSALEM POST AND AL-HAMISHMAR (BLITZER)
WRITE THAT "ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON WERE
PLEASED ABOUT THE HIGH DEGREE OF SUPPORT SHOWN
FOR ISRAEL IN THE SENATE. IT WAS APPARENT THAT
MUCH OF THEIR HAPPINESS STEMMED FROM THE FACT THAT

RABIN WOULD BETTER BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND ADMINISTRATION PRESSURE..." IN ITS EDITORIAL JERUSALEM POST NOTS THAT LETTER "HAS COME AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME... IT WILL PUNCTURE THE EFFORTS OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN CLAIMING THAT SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND ITS ELECTED REPS IN WASINGTON HAS WEAKENED..." EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT "ACTION OF SENATORS WILL HELP TO RESTORE SOME CLARITY ABOUT THE DEPTH OF US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. THE APPEARANCE OF US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL WHICH HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO BUILD UP IN WASHINGTON SINCE THE FAILURE... OF THE TALKS WAS NOT A PRESCRIPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS."

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7. MAARIV WASHINGTON REPORTER, SEGEV, WRITES THAT "LTTER.. CAUSED A SHOCK IN THE ARAB DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON..." HE ADDS THAT "SENIOR WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT... LETTER AND ITS WIDESPREAD PUBLIATION IN THE AMERICAN PRESS WILL LIMIT FORD'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT.... THEY SAY THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF THE LETTER WAS SENT AND PUBLISHED AFTER THE MEETING IN SALZBURG..."

8. YEDIOT REPORT IN WASHINGTON, KIVITI, ALSO QUOTS AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS FEARING THAT THE LETTER "WILL BE INTERPRETED BY PRESIDENT SADAT AS A PROOF THAT THE US WILL BE UNABLE TO CONDUCT "A BALANCED" POLICY IN THE MID EAST. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR ANXIETY OVER THE POSSIBILITY THAT ISRAEL WILL INTERPRET THE LETTER AS A SUPPORT TO REMAIN IN ITS PRESENT BORDERS AND INCREASE IT OPPOSITION TO FURTHER WITHDRAWALS..." KIVITI ALSO QUOTES "UNOFFICIAL CIRCLES CONNECTED WITH THE WHITE HOUSE" AS CONCEDED THAT THE LETTER "MAY INFLUENCE THE ADMINISTRATION IN FORMULATING ITS POSITION ON THE MID EAST. THE FEELING IN THE ADMINISTRATION IS THAT THE LETTER WILL GIVE ISRAEL A FEELING OF SECURITY WHICH MAY ALSO BE POSITIVE BECAUSE IT WILL REDUCE FRUSTRATIONS.... FOLLOWING THE WRONG IMPRESSION THAT ISRAEL NO LONGER ENJOYS WIDE SUPPORT IN CONGRESS..."

VELIOTS

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